

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0784

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, UN
SUBJECT: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM--MARCH 16 MEETING
AND WEO MEETING

REF: USUN 776

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING NOMINATION BY GUINEA'S REPRESENTATIVE,
COMMITTEE ELECTED BY CONSENSUS AMBASSADOR HOVEYDA (IRAN)
AS CHAIRMAN. WHEN HOVEYDA TOOK CHAIR, HE ASKED FOR NOMI-
NATIONS FOR REST OF BUREAU. AS THERE WERE NONE, ALGERIA
MOVED FOR ADJOURNMENT SO THAT CONSULTATIONS COULD CONTINUE.
HOVEYDA, BEFORE ADJOURNING MEETING, ASKED THAT DELEGATIONS
COME TO AM MEETING MARCH 17 PREPARED TO COMPLETE ELECTION
OF OFFICERS. AFTER CONSULTING COMMITTEE, HOVEYDA CANCELLED
PM MEETING MARCH 17 BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT.
END SUMMARY.

2. AT MARCH 16 MEETING COMMITTEE ELECTED BY CONSENSUS
AMBASSADOR HOVEYDA (IRAN) CHAIRMAN. GUINEA HAD NOMINATED
HOVEYDA., WHEN HOVEYDA TOOK CHAIR, HE ASKED FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR REST OF BUREAU. WHEN NONE WERE VOLUNTEERED, ALGERIA
PROPOSED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED SO THAT INFORMAL
CONSULTATIONS ON BUREAU MIGHT CONTINUE. HOVEYDA REQUESTED
THAT MEMBERS COME TO NEXT MEETING AT 10:30 AM MARCH 17
PREPARED TO COMPLETE ELECTION OF OFFICERS. BEFORE ADJOURN-
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ING MEETING, HOVEYDA, AFTER CONSULTING COMMITTEE, CANCELLED
MARCH 17 PM MEETING BECAUSE OF VISIT OF PRESIDENT
CARTER.

3. WEO GROUP STILL HAS NO FIRM CANDIDATE FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN.
PREFERENCE IS STILL FOR SWEDEN (PERSON) (REFTEL). US AND
UK HAVE URGED PERSON TO ASK STOCKHOLM TO RECONSIDER ITS

DECISION THAT SWEDEN NOT ACCEPT POSITION. AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS TAKEN THIS UP WITH SWEDEN'S AMBASSADOR. PERSON IS INTERESTED IN POSITION. UK HAS ASKED CANADA TO ACCEPT POSITION IF SWEDEN CONTINUES TO DECLINE.

4. OTHER GROUPS ARE ALSO UNDECIDED ABOUT CANDIDACIES FOR BUREAU. AMBASSADOR GIAMBRUNA (URUGUAY) INFORMS US THAT AMBASSADOR BLACKMAN REMAINS LIKELY LA CANDIDATE. WE HAVE HEARD THAT EE'S MAY SELECT UKRAINE AS CANDIDATE FOR THIRD VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP, ALTHOUGH YUGOSLAVIA MAY BE INTERESTED. RAPPORTEURSHIP WILL APPARENTLY GO TO AN AFRICAN, POSSIBLY ZAIRE WHICH WAS RAPPORTEUR IN 1973.

5. WEO GROUP MET MARCH 16 AM TO DISCUSS COMPOSITION OF BUREAU AND METHOD OF WORK OF COMMITTEE. GENERAL CONCLUSION WAS THAT WEO'S MIGHT STRESS SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME AVAILABLE TO COMMITTEE FOR SUBSTANTIVE WORK AND RECOMMEND TO PROVIDE UPBEAT NOTE THAT THEREFORE COMMITTEE CHOOSE A METHOD OF WORK THAT MIGHT LEAD TO SOME ACCOMPLISHMENT. WEO'S MIGHT THEN RECOMMEND THAT COMMITTEE NOT DIVIDE WORK INTO THREE SUB-COMMITTEES (DEFINITION, CAUSES, AND MEASURES), AS IN 1973. GROUP ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT IT MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO ENDANGER HOSTAGES ITEM BY APPEARING OVERLY NEGATIVE IN THIS COMMITTEE. IN THIS CONNECTION, WEO'S RECOGNIZED THAT THEY SHOULD NOT ARGUE TOO STRONGLY AGAINST DISCUSSION OF TOPICS PROPOSED BY OTHERS, ALTHOUGH WEO'S WOULD NOT NECESSARILY AGREE ON SUBSTANCE DURING DISCUSSION.

6. SPECIFICALLY, SWEDEN SUGGESTED THAT AFTER A SHORT
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GENERAL DEBATE THE COMMITTEE SHOULD FORM WORKING GROUPS OF THE WHOLE. FIRST WORKING GROUP WOULD SEEK TO DELIMIT ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHICH WOULD FALL UNDER THE HEADING "INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM" WITH A VIEW TO ENCOURAGING EVENTUAL CONVENTIONS CONCERNING THEM; OTHER WORKING GROUP WOULD CONSIDER MEASURES STATES CAN TAKE THEMSELVES TO COMBAT TERRORISM. UK AND US SUPPORTED SWEDISH PROPOSAL, SAYING PROPOSAL WAS POSITIVE AS WELL AS PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC IN TERMS OF TIME AVAILABLE TO COMMITTEE. GREECE AND FRANCE SUGGESTED THAT COMMITTEE CONCENTRATE ON DEFINITION OF TERRORISM, ARGUING THAT MEASURES TO COMBAT TERRORISM COULD NOT BE ENACTED UNTIL TERRORISM DEFINED. AUSTRIA, UK, AND CANADA DISAGREED WITH THIS APPROACH. ALL NOTED FAILURE OF COMMITTEE TO COME UP WITH A DEFINITION OF TERRORISM AT ITS 1973 SESSION, THE IMPROBABILITY OF ANYTHING CONSTRUCTIVE BEING ACCOMPLISHED ON A DEFINITION PER SE, AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT IF ONE OF THE THREE PREVIOUS SUBCOMMITTEES WERE REVIVED, ALL WOULD BE. UK SUGGESTED THAT SWEDISH PROPOSAL WAS SIMILAR TO DEFINITION SINCE IT WOULD

LEAD TO A LIST OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, WHICH COULD LATER BE USED TO AID IN DEFINITION OF TERRORISM. UK CHAIRMAN ASKED FRANCE AND SWEDEN TO CONSULT ABOUT WAYS IN WHICH FRENCH CONCERN WITH DEFINITION MIGHT BE BLENDED WITH SWEDISH PROPOSAL AND DIRECTED AT COMMON GOAL.

7. GROUP ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WHATEVER METHOD OF WORK THE WEO'S SUGGEST, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO PREVENT SUBJECTS OF CAUSES OF TERRORISM AND STATE TERRORISM FROM ARISING.

8. GROUP DECIDED TO RESUME DISCUSSION OF METHOD OF WORK ON MARCH 17.

9. YUGOSLAV REPRESENTATIVE (KAPETANOVIC), SPEAKING INFORMALLY TO US REPRESENTATIVE, SUGGESTED THAT COMMITTEE, ONCE BUREAU ELECTED, MIGHT DEVOTE ATTENTION DURING RELATIVELY SHORT CONFIDENTIAL

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PERIOD OF TIME REMAINING NOT EVEN TO GENERAL DEBATE BUT RATHER TO ESSENTIALLY "INFORMAL" EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AS TO HOW COMMITTEE MIGHT USEFULLY APPROACH SUBJECT OF "INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM" IN FUTURE. IF THIS APPROACH ADOPTED, PREDICTABLY WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO HEAD OFF RECONVENING OF AD-HOC COMMITTEE IN COMING YEAR.
YOUNG

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